

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council chambers on August 11, 2020, at 7:30 PM, with the following individuals present:

Mayor: Paul Crawford
Town Manager: Tim Taylor
Town Clerk: Christina Brown
Council Members: Jeff Hurst, Rick Wood, Doug, Ratliff, Mary Ann Strong, Richard Brown, Rod Cury
Town Attorney: Kenneth Wayne McClanahan II

Mayor Crawford opened the meeting.

Mayor Crawford gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Crawford: A couple of things before I get into the meeting too far. If everybody would pull your mic up to where it is this close to you. I know it is a little bit aggravating to have it there, but we are continually having issues with folks who can't hear. So, do the best we can with it. Everybody's mic should be on. The other thing, just for housekeeping, when we go into executive session, into the conference room there, we cannot maintain social distancing, so I will ask that everyone wear a mask when we go in there for executive session, please.

Mayor Crawford: Any additions or deletions to the agenda?

Tim Taylor: Mayor, I have a few, if you don't mind.

Mayor Crawford: Okay.

Tim Taylor: You have in front of you that wasn't part of your packet two resolutions that were added under the Director of Community Development's report. That would be resolution 2020-0803 and 0804. If you would add that under the Director of Community Development's report. And we also have under my manager's report, I need to add a line of credit to draw down from National Bank for Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Project for the current cost for the month. That amount is \$75,171.11. I will speak to that under my report.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. I would like to add under unscheduled public comments, Laura Mollo and Blake Ray, and I hope Jessica is going to be here. Fred, do you know whether she will or not?

Fred Phillips: No sir.

Mayor Crawford: She will not be? Or you don't know?

Fred Phillips: She is not going to be here.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. All right. Are you prepared to give us an update on the...

Fred Phillips: It is in your packets, sir.

Mayor Crawford: It is?

Fred Phillips: Yes, sir.

Mayor Crawford: Are you going to read it to us?

Fred Phillips: No, sir.

Mayor Crawford: I was hoping to see somebody with a little bit more spirit to them, Fred, and I knew Jessica would have it. Okay.

Jeff Hurst: Can I make a motion to have Fred read it?

Fred Phillips: I can answer questions.

Mayor Crawford: Okay.

Fred Phillips: But, it is pretty self-explanatory, sir.

Mayor Crawford: Alright, anything else?

Richard Brown: Under the closed session XIII B., I will be exempted from that, and I would like to ask that either have that moved to A or to the end.

Mayor Crawford: That's on D?

Richard Brown: It's going to be under B. Statutory Compliance with 56-484.16.

Mayor Crawford: Let's just move that down to the end; will that be okay with everybody?

Attorney McClanahan: That will be great.

Mayor Crawford: Any others? Okay. Approval of the minutes?

Rick Wood: Connie's got something.

Connie Allen: You have to have an approval of the agenda first.

Mayor Crawford: I can't hear you.

Mary Ann Strong: Approve the agenda first.

Mayor Crawford: Oh, we have to approve the agenda first. Okay. Thank you.

Doug Ratliff: Mayor, can I get this to Rod?

Mayor Crawford: Yes.

Rick Wood: I will make a motion to approve the agenda.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Thank you.

Mary Ann Strong: I will second the motion to approve the agenda.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion by Rick and a second by Mary Ann to approve the agenda as modified. Roll call vote. Roll Call: Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Wood-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes.

Mayor Crawford: Motion carries. Okay, now, approval of the minutes.

Jeff Hurst: I make a motion that we approve the minutes for the July 14 meeting.

Mayor Crawford: Thank you.

Rick Wood: I'll second that.

Mayor Crawford: We have a motion and a second to approve the minutes as presented. Roll call vote: Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Wood-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes. Motion carries. Thank you.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, scheduled public comments. We've got a five-minute maximum. Our attorney is going to do the time keeping for us. If you would, Wayne, when it gets down to thirty seconds, wave your hand or something so the person can kind of wind up. First on is Shea Cook.

Shea Cook: Mr. Mayor, good evening. Members of the council. I had the opportunity a couple of weeks ago to speak to the planning commission about an issue that is probably near and dear to a lot of people in town, and that is flooding—the constant flooding. And I have explained to them that, you know, I've lived in Richlands for many years, and then several years ago, I remember my family purchased a family, an old family residence located in the Brooklyn section. And, this year, I guess for the first time, it really touched me personally as far as the losses that are involved with the flooding, and it's sad to say, but when it affects you, you really start to look at answers that can benefit the whole community. I think that if you are in a situation where we are blessed that we have the Clinch River goes right through the middle of town. It is an awesome thing. It is great from a tourist standpoint. It is beautiful, but for us, it also has a recurrent curse in effect, in the sense that every year we have a flooding event of some kind. We have sections of town, Brooklyn for an example, is an example. There are other sections that are either flooded or threatened to be flooded on a yearly basis. In fact, this year, we have had two significant flooding events. The house that my wife's grandparents had lived in, the last time that floodwaters touched that house or got to that second street was back in the '50s; in fact, 1957. And this year, it reached that point. So, I understand that after the flood in the '50s, there was an effort to dredge portions of the Clinch River, which no doubt is a commonsense engineering way to deal with it. But the problem is that in the intervening years, with the freshwater mussels and the environmental regulations, it's more difficult to be able to try to create a flood remediation projects. So, I reached out to the EPA, and the EPA indicated they don't have any regulations that would keep us from doing that. So, they referred me to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fishery, and I spoke to them. I've spoken with Morgan Griffith's office. I've spoken with DEQ, and they're all more than willing to participate in a group to try to develop a plan to deal with the flooding. And, you know, the issue is money: Where does the money come from? Well, I have circulated a memo from the Congressional Research Service, and this is a document generated for members of Congress that go over funding sources at the federal level. But also, I have sent to Mary Ann today, there is a fund: Virginia Dam Safety Flood Prevention and Protective Assistance Fund. Every year the state of Virginia has money available to help towns, whether it's dredging out portions of Big Creek, for example, or floodwalls, or floodgates. And, what I am suggesting to the Council, and it seems to be an idea that the planning commission agreed with, is to develop a task force of some kind, populated by people from the Council, other individuals in the community. Um, the Game and Inland Fishery said that they would participate and (inaudible 15:18) said that they would participate. You have one of the largest flood projects in Virginia history that has been going on across the mountain over the course of the past seven or eight years. So, they're familiar with the flooding issues in Southwest Virginia generally, and I think you would find that agency willing to participate, too. But, it just seems to me that a commission needs to be established and a plan needs to be developed. And, so, the resources are available, the people are available, so I'm asking if you would consider doing that and move to the formation of that.

Mayor Crawford: Can I ask one question?

Shea Cook: Sure

Mayor Crawford: I read something about the planning commission and talking about this, and were they suggesting that the planning commission or members of the planning commission start this commission and get it up and going? Did I understand that correctly?

Shea Cook: They seemed, uh, they were very interested in being actively involved. Uh, Rod is a member of the planning commission and he was there, and he can probably speak more directly to what they would like to accomplish.

Rod Cury: Thank you, I will be glad to do that. Uh, if you would like, on here, I am on the agenda, but, if you would like, I can take care of this piece of business right now. The planning commission, and this is in your packet. You should have gotten a recommendation. It says, "The town of Richlands Planning Commission having considered the request from..." Wrong one. Hold on. I have several. Here it is. Sorry." Mr. Cury read the recommendation. And that is the recommendation of the Commission. And, uh, the underlined part is important if Council wants to consider this recommendation.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, at this time I will entertain a motion to allow the Planning Commission to get this up and going.

Mr. Ratliff: I make that motion.

Mr. Cury: And I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second. Any further discussion?

Mr. Brown: Are we going to ask the Planning Commission to select the members of the Remediation Task Force?

Mayor Crawford: That is what I understood. Yes.

Mr. Cury: That is the, uh, that is what we voted on. I will read it again. Mr. Cury read the recommendation again. So, it's my understanding that the Commission, the Planning Commission will facilitate that, and we'll get back to you. Inaudible (18:22-18:27)

Mr. Crawford: We have a motion and a second. Roll Call vote: Mr. Hurst-yes, Mr. Wood-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes. Motion carries. Thank you.

Shea Cook: Okay, thank you.

Mayor Crawford: Uh, Frances Dupree. Let him clean the podium off.

Mr. Dupree: Hello, Mayor. Council.

Mr. Crawford: What was yours? What we've got? Let me stop. Richard, maybe you need to help him.

Richard: I have spoken to Mr. Dupree prior to the meeting, and I am familiar with the lot he is requesting as well as the medical issues that his mother is facing, and uh, I don't think that there is any reason for Mr. Dupree to have to state his facts regarding the uh the council asking for, asking the council for the conditional use permit for this mobile home. I spoke to Mr. Taylor, and it appears Nathan has everything done regarding the setback, uh, with this property and it seems to fit everything. What I would like to ask is if the council does agree to, uh, grant the conditional use permit for this mobile home that under the conditional use permit that we specify that the home that is to be demolished to be done in a period, in some period of time.

Mr. Dupree: It will be pulled out or demolished within four to six months at the most from family.

Mayor Crawford: I would say six if I were you, just to be safe.

Mr. Dupree: Appalachian Agency, they help take care of my mom and they are getting involved to help get it out.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. I will entertain a motion to allow, uh, let's say a permit.

Mr. Taylor: A conditional use permit.

Mayor Crawford: Thanks. The conditional use permit to put that mobile home on the lot for you and with the understanding that the second mobile home will be completely removed within six months.

Mr. Ratliff: I will make that motion.

Mrs. Strong: I'll second the motion.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second. Any further discussions?

Mr. Cury: Mayor, I am fine with this; I just want to clarify the motion. With the understanding that the mobile home that is here now will be removed within six months.

Mayor Crawford: Correct.

Mr. Cury: Okay. Thank you for letting me clarify that.

Mayor Crawford: Roll call vote. Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Wood-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes. Motion carries. Thank you.

Mr. Dupree: Okay. Do I just get up with Nathan? Is this what I do?

Tim Taylor: Yes. We will get Nathan to contact you, or you can call him tomorrow and we will make arrangements to get the permit to you.

Mr. Dupree: Great. You all have a great evening. Thank you.

Mayor Crawford: Joe McCracken. All right, let's get the podium cleaned off.

Mr. Joe McCracken: Thank you. I'm here on the same issue of Shea Cook. All council members, except Mr. Hurst, the new one, has been over and seen the area. Uh, they know what our problem is over there. Uh, we've been talking and talking and talking for around twenty years now and uh, I've been flooded uh, several time. Every time it floods, I have to replace the heating and air. That's six or seven thousand dollars. That's six or seven thousand dollars I'm investing back in this town. Or, I can leave this town. I don't want to leave this town. I want to stay here in this town. And, I'm just looking for help. Our street, uh, there's five businesses over there on where I live. Sixty to seventy people at all times. Uh, so everyone is built up around that street and left the street low, and that's what's causing the problem. Everybody has out built the street and the street has not been kept up above the floodplain. Uh, so that has created a problem. That and there's only one drain system over there. And this day and time, one drain system will not handle the amount of water that's pushed down that street anymore. So, and, I'd like to mention that a lot of that water is contaminated water from the old Ingersoll Rand S&S business that used to be there. So, uh, we need help over there. I've asked for several years and hopefully Mr. Cook, uh, can get it legislated through, and maybe we can receive help, and the town will not have to bear all the burden. Uh, thank you.

Mr. Ratliff: I'd like to make a motion. I make a motion that we ask Mr. Taylor to come up with a plan by next council meeting, be it put a larger drainpipe in. or some kind of plan, that if we have to get an engineer in there to have a plan, to get the flooding because I think, you guys were flooded twice in one month.

Mr. Joe McCracken: Yes.

Mr. Ratliff: And, uh, I'd make that motion.

Mayor Crawford: We have a motion. Do we have a second?

Mr. Wood: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: A motion and a second. Any discussion?

Mr. Brown: Can we get Joe to come back here? Can you come back up, Mr. McCracken?

Mr. Joe McCracken: Yes.

Mrs. Strong: I was just going to ask Mr. Taylor if he could speak to the request.

Mr. Taylor: Well, that is a fairly tall order to do that in thirty days, but if you've got a flood remediation program started, that's the way to start with it because there are plenty of requests for that, so I think you probably should. Uh, I don't have a civil engineer on staff anymore, and uh, that's going to require a civil engineer to do that, so I mean, we can start if council so wishes, but it might be contingent upon really trying to get involved with the planning commission to do the process, and maybe to get ahead of the curve a little bit.

Mr. Ratliff: That, uh, that process that you're talking about, that's going to take years. And, if they get flooded twice a month already, how many times have you been flooded? Five or six times?

Mr. Joe McCracken: Yeah.

Mr. Ratliff: I mean, we're talking about years when, before it goes to the planning commission and all the plans go through the government. I mean, that's unreal to ask these people to wait that long when maybe we can spend a few thousand dollars and put a bigger drain system in. I mean, that's what we are supposed to do is protect the citizens, and we always have money for everything else. So, it looks like we can come up with enough money to help. I think there's five, uh, different families over there.

Mr. Joe McCracken: There's five different businesses over there. There's thirty, thirty-two apartments, thirty-four apartments over there. Uh, five businesses, sixty to seventy people over there at all times. Uh, there's only one way in and one way out, and the water gets above the road. You can't get in or you can't get out. Uh, plus you have Suburban Propane sitting there with 195,000 gallons of propane, uh that could go off at any time. And the tanks floating around and banging against each other. The last time, uh, the flood hit, the tanks were floating around, banging around, and it knocked the top off of one of the tanks and gas spewed out. Uh, the town come over and killed the power. It killed the power, it killed the pumps. So you can't pump water anymore because the tanks were floating around. It's a hazard; it's definitely a, a hazard over there.

Mr. Ratliff: I mean, I think we're waiting for a disaster. So, I would urge the council to at least, I mean, thirty days, when we've been doing this for two or three years. If we wait on the planning commission, and we wait on the plans from the government to get grants and so forth, all these people will be gone.

Mr. Joe McCracken: I talked to Mr. Hackworth, and Mr. Hackworth says there is probably some money out there through the Agricultural Department of Tazewell County. So, I think we need to work with our county and our state representatives, uh, to do something pretty quickly. I mean it's been six months, and I am still cleaning up after the flood. Six months later. I'm still working on it.

Mr. Brown: Alright, that's the reason I asked you to come back up. I had one question. Uh, when I walked the property, I didn't have time to go down to that, uh, on Sayer's Street, between Jewell and the concrete plant, and you mentioned that the drainage system down there that goes to the river that there is an issue with that, and I think that

may be something we could probably do quickly and inexpensively. But, have you had the opportunity to go down there and see what that issue is?

Mr. McCracken: Yeah, yes. That issue is, uh, there's a small drainpipe running into a four-foot drainpipe. There's an eighteen or twenty-inch drainpipe running into a four-foot drainpipe, and that eighteen-inch pipe no way can handle the volume going into the four-foot drainpipe.

Mr. Brown: I'm not talking about the one that's at the railroad. I'm talking about the drainage ditch between Sayers and the concrete plant itself. That we talked about.

Mr. Joe McCracken: Yes, yes. That ditch needs to be deeper on the far end going toward the concrete plant. Give a little more time, uh, give a little more time, time, time for, you know, the water to start going down, and it takes time for it to start going down. And, uh, if that ditch was a little deeper and a little wider, it would buy a little bit more time.

Mr. Ratliff: That would be two things that we could do. What you're talking about Richard, um, Mr. Brown, and uh, Mr. McCracken. We could do, uh, this study and have it ready in thirty days about the drainpipe and also do what you're proposing, Mr. Brown. I mean at least that will give us time to maybe let Rod's planning commission.

Mr. Brown: I mean, I didn't have time to ask, but when you drive by, you can see some elevation changes in the ditch line.

Mr. Ratliff: I think it's a good idea.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, we have a motion and a second to give the town manager, until the next meeting, to be...

Mr. Taylor: To be clear, I'm not sure what was said. I want to make sure I fully understand the motion before we go anywhere.

Mrs. Strong: Mr. Mayor, could I ask a question? Doug, what would your thoughts be since we don't have a civil engineer on staff right now, and I don't know how long the process would have to take to post something like that. Or would you or can you hire a consultant to do what is necessary?

Mr. Ratliff: You can get a, what is it? Uh, Mr. Wyatt. I mean, they are inexpensive. You could do a study, uh relatively inexpensive. Uh, what is his name?

Mrs. Strong: Doug Light

Mr. Ratliff: Uh, yeah. Uh, he's an engineer in town. I'm sure he would do it at a reduced cost to help out the town.

Mr. Wood: Can we get Kenneth Dunford from the county to help us with it? He has worked for the town.

Mr. Taylor: That could be our first stop, and actually, he would tell you about any type of discharging that when you change the direction supposed to have a stormwater permit, from you know, the reg. So, he knows all about the regs. I think that would be a first stop to use the county engineer.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. What do you need to understand about the motion?

Mr. Taylor: Just make sure I understand it. I heard quite a bit there. The hydraulics, you're looking at that one ditch area between Jewell Street and the concrete place.

Mayor Crawford: Let me say this. We're not trying to solve the problem here.

Mr. Taylor: Oh, okay.

Mayor Crawford: None of us are engineers, I don't think. And uh, but what's been asked is that we direct you to get a plan together by the next meeting, to uh, give us some guidance on how...

Mr. Taylor: On how to proceed looking at maybe some options. Yeah, we can start with the county engineer. We do have Thompson Litt on retainer for those small type things.

Mr. Wood: And another thing we are asking is to clean the ditch out between Jim Brown's property and, uh,

Mr. Taylor: Yeah, we can clean out the ditch.

Mr. Wood: Okay.

Mr. Joe McCracken: Last week when we had the hard rain, that ditch filled to the top. It was ready to come across the road. And that was just one day.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, right. We got a motion and a second. Roll call vote: Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Wood-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes. Motion carries. Thank you, Joe.

Mr. Joe McCracken: Thank y'all.

Mayor Crawford: Syndusty Harrison. Did I say that right?

Ms. Harrison: Yes, you did. Okay, so this if my first town council meeting, so thanks for having me. I'm just here tonight to speak about having some handicapped accessible playground equipment added to Critterville. Um,

Richlands, of course, is a beautiful place. I have grown up here my whole life. Um, and we have some beautiful parks surrounding, uh, Richlands. However, we are missing something that I believe is vital to, um, being able to include every citizen of our community. And that is some kind of accessible playground equipment. Um, I think Critterville would be a wonderful place to put this because, um, you know Critterville, you know, that whole area is, um, somewhere where a lot of families go to attend the ball games and things like that. Um, there are numerous options for us to be able to include everyone in our playgrounds. So, at Critterville, the mulch itself makes it very difficult for individuals with walkers, braces, and wheelchairs, and things like that to be able to access the park. Um, there's a lot of options like rubber ground that we could incorporate for individuals like that, to be able to, so that they can have access to the park. Once inside they should also have access to handicap accessible equipment, such as maybe a wheelchair accessible swing, and um, maybe a sensory board for autistic individuals or the visually impaired. Currently we do have a high back (inaudible 35:28-35:30); however, it is very difficult and often impossible for someone or a wheelchair user to actually access. Um, a liberty swing is a swing that allows a wheelchair user to experience full swing, uh, full swinging and exhilaration of play, and this would be accessible to anyone utilizing a wheelchair, children and adults. So, um, and then, of course, the sensory board would also allow for stimulation for people with sensory issues, such as those with autism, as well as those that are visually impaired. By including every citizen, um, we're not only benefitting those with special needs but also without. Um, studies have shown that when two different groups of children play together, they're easily, or they more easily socialize, and oftentimes it eliminates the stigma of not knowing how to play with special needs children or individuals, um, which also helps them socialize more easily in other settings such as school. Oftentimes people with disabilities have to sit on the sideline at parks. By giving them access to handicap accessible equipment, we help, um, with visual, physical, and mental stimulation, but it also helps their morale and emotional well-being. So, the American's with Disabilities Act currently provides protection for people to have access to playgrounds, so this would help Richlands to remain in compliance with ADA to our playground. And, since this is an ADA standard, there are millions of dollars in grant money, um, available for funding of this equipment. And, I also believe this would be successful in private fundraising efforts. I know that there's a lot of people that would get involved with that. So, I think between you know, um, fundraising, grants, and maybe some help from our recreation budget, I believe that this is worth, um, moving forward with the goal of including everyone.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Any questions or anything?

Mrs. Strong: Actually, I think your timing is perfect because we do have a citizen who has expressed very sincere interest to all six of us. I'm not sure he wants his name mentioned, I was threatened not to, I can't do that right now, but he's willing to donate, he and his wife, \$25,000 and also to solicit some grants as well as private donations. He fully believes he can turn this into reality. He already has the area of Critterville picked out, and he wants this for a 2021 project. And so, again, I don't, I guess you weren't even aware of that.

Ms. Harrison: Uh, no. Not at all. I'm actually in social work. Um, it was a social work program, and this started as an assignment, and I took it a little further and actually wanted to attend the meeting. Instead of, you know, writing it up, I wanted to really find something that I felt our town needed.

Mrs. Strong: So, again, what a blessing because your thoughts are the same. So, we are going to ask him to come to the recreation commission meeting, which is always the third Monday of every month, and you're welcome to come next Monday, too, at 7:30 upstairs at the rec park. I think it's definitely something that will become a reality next year.

Ms. Harrison: That's wonderful.

Mrs. Strong: Thank you.

Ms. Harrison: Thank you.

Mayor Crawford: Loraine Johnson isn't here.

Mr. Taylor: I believe Ms. Johnson called and said she wouldn't be in attendance. I think, actually, we may have taken care of some of her problems.

Mayor Crawford: Thank you. Ashley Ward?

Adrienne Cordle: Oh, I'm sorry. She won't be here either because that is something that can be resolved with the rec commission. So that should have been removed.

Mayor Crawford: Alright. For unscheduled public comments, uh, Blake Ray.

Mr. Ray: Hey guys. Let's see. First of all, I just want to thank you guys for a great weekend. Um, we had our inaugural, inaugural hometown backyard bash at Coaltown Taps. Um, that event brought in, we brought cornhole, we brought bands from out of county. Um, throughout the day, I think there were 600-650 people in attendance. Um, the cornhole players played from 8:30, no 10:30 in the morning until 8:30 at night and didn't stop. Um, and about half of them or more were not even from Richlands. Um, so they had a great day, so I just wanted to say thank you to Tim, Richard, Jerry Gilbert, Adrienne for working out for partial street closures and helping us put on that event. Um, secondly, I wanted to let you guys know what we are up to for the rest of the year. Um, Connie and I had met with a few people about having a farm to table in September. We have decided to postpone that, um, because of Covid. And, so, oddly enough, um, we were looking for another fundraising event to do in September. Um, so I think we are going to jump on Syndusty's, um, issue there. What you guys don't know about me; my sister just adopted two kids. Um, one of them is autistic. I'm fully supporting that sensory items at Critterville. So, I think

that's going to be our September 19 event. Um, we will figure that out. In October, we're going to have a women's health event. Um, here's where I need everyone's help. So, um, we've got a planning committee worked out. Um, we're going to make it all about women's health, breast cancer awareness. A lot of our vendors are going to focus on helping us raise money for, um, a local non-profit for breast cancer. And then, um, part of the committee wants to do a 5k. So, this event is October 10, so I would really like the town's support, um, to work on closing down a safe path for them to do a 5k in town. We're going to start and stop it at Coaltown Taps. And then we're partnering with Classy Closet to do a fall fashion show. And, um, I think we are partnering with um (Inaudible 42:52-42:56) to talk about women's health. Uh, the pharmacy folks, jewelry vendors. Um, we're also partnering with Clinch Valley Medical Center. So, uh, thank you guys. That's what I came to ask for, so have a great evening.

Mayor Crawford: Thank you. Uh, I'll just add, Coaltown Taps has been a very positive addition to our town. They've had fundraisers for, uh, Blackberry Winter, which we are all familiar with. Uh, just this past weekend, they had a fundraiser for Elijah Stiltner, our own military man that we have in town, who has a very serious illness. Uh, they're doing a lot of good things in town, and I appreciate it, Blake. Thank you.

Mrs. Strong: Mayor, may I?

Mayor Crawford: Yes, ma'am.

Mrs. Strong: on Saturday evening, Fred and Jessica did the drawing. They had a raffle for a 50-inch tv, and all the proceeds went to the adopt a child program. So, because of all the money through the raffle, it got us to our goal, a little bit over, 100 kids. So that was great news.

Mr. Crawford: If I may, I'll speak for Jessica on that just a little bit while they are cleaning the podium. Uh, it got us over 100 children. A lot of them are for a two-month, uh, membership. What we're shooting for, as always, when you always give a little, you ask for a lot, right? But, we want to ask to keep that goal at 100 annual memberships, so let's keep working on that. They had a donation from someone in Bedford County, I believe, or Bedford town for \$1,500. The fella heard about this deal and sent a donation. So, that's tremendous. Laura.

Tim Taylor: Mr. Mayor, just a minute, before you go on. Were you looking for permission or just the support of this event?

Mr. Ray: No sir. Three minutes goes a lot faster than I thought, by the way. Um, so, I'm working on logistics. I'll be reaching out to you guys, um, and I just ask that you know, you guys help me.

Mr. Taylor: Okay.

Mayor Crawford: Thank you. Begin.

Ms. Mollo: Um, I have a pretty serious issue to bring to you guys tonight, and I've got something to pass around if you need me to. I wasn't planning on being here tonight, but. Um, recently, the police were at my home. It scared my children because my political signs were a few inches too close to the road. And, that's all well and good because somebody was in the right to call it out. And I moved them back and it was complete ignorance on my part, but some posts have started coming on Facebook, and I know you can't police the citizens. Um, I know MaryAnn said a few months ago that she doesn't participate in trashy Facebook pages. I appreciate that because, to me, you guys should be above reproach. And, you guys should be staying out of these issues when it comes to people insulting other people. And, there was a post tonight, again, about someone in this town's children, and Mr. Crawford, your wife laughed at it. And to me, when you guys do that, anybody does that, it is a slap in the face to the citizens of this town because we have elected you guys, whether we voted for you or not. We need to respect you guys as our administration, and you guys should respect us as citizens and stay out of this stuff. If citizens want to do that and they want to be immature, and they want to do that stuff, I mean, that's sad because this is the (inaudible 46:48) of how people want to be, how certain people want to be. But, as our administration, it looks horrible, and it feels horrible. It makes us feel unsafe when you guys yourselves or your spouses are laughing at posts like this. And, I've got the printout if you'd like to see it. If you guys want to pass it around or keep it, but um. If you guys want to really consider an ordinance-some sort of ethics ordinance to not participate in this stuff. It's hurtful to us as citizens.

Mr. Crawford: I will say that my wife is a citizen, and I'm the mayor. And, I certainly don't control her. Okay.

Ms. Mollo: Thank you very much.

Mrs. Strong: Can I say one thing, Mrs. Mollo. I would like to apologize for calling that trashy. I think, I would like to change that to undesirable, that might be a better word. And, I would also, I, about two or so months ago, I started looking into a code of conduct for council members, and I've just gotten busy. I mentioned that to our attorney. So, that's something I plan to pursue. I think a code of conduct would address some of this because there are many businesses that are addressing, that because of the big blow up in social media. They are addressing that specifically.

Ms. Mollo: I completely agree, and I really respect that. I hope you do pursue that, and if you do, if there is anything I can do, I will back you up one hundred percent on it.

Mrs. Strong: Thank you so much.

Ms. Mollo: Thanks very much, guys.

Mayor Crawford: Thank you, Laura. Okay, am I overlooking anyone on public comments? So, that's it? Uh, Connie, do you have a report?

Connie Allen: First, I would like permission to apply to two different grants for funding to, uh, to remodel the outside of the Tazewell County Library-Richlands branch. CProp is opened up again for \$200,000, which, uh, we are eligible. But when I talked to Jim Baldwin, he said where we got that other CProp, that if another town came in and asked for money, you know, they probably would get it above us, but we can still apply. So, I would still like permission to go ahead and try to see if we could get some money from Cumberland Plateau Regional Opportunity Program, which we call it CProp. It's only going to be for like \$65,000. And, also, I would like to submit a grant to Thompson Foundation for the exact same thing, so we can get some money to try to, uh, fix the woodwork and all the ground at the library and things like that. So, we can make it like our, uh, the center point of town. Like we've got the greenway and the Chamber of Commerce building, so the library would just finish that off. So, I did type up two resolutions that I'd like for you to consider on voting on tonight because I need those to attach to the grants. It's resolution R-2020-08-03, the Cumberland Plateau Regional Opportunity Program, and resolution R-2020-08-04, the Thompson Foundation.

Mayor Crawford: Do you want to read the 03 and ask for approval?

Ms. Allen: I can.

Mayor Crawford: Please.

Ms. Allen: She read resolution 2020-08-03 at this time. (Attached)

Mayor Crawford: I will entertain a motion to approve this resolution.

Mr. Wood: I make that motion.

Mr. Ratliff: I'll second.

Mayor Crawford: Motion made and seconded to approve resolution R-2020-08-03. Roll call vote: Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Wood-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes.

Clerk: And, I am sorry. I did not hear who made the motion.

Mr. Wood: I did.

Clerk: Thank you.

Mayor Crawford: Did you get the second on it?

Mrs. Brown: Yes, it was Mr. Ratliff. Thank you.

Ms. Allen: I would like to say, if we are awarded both grants when we apply for it, I guess I talked to Tim about that earlier, we could just deny one of them because we only need between \$65 and \$75,000. Excuse me, my voice is trying to go. So, I thought, that both of them has to be turned in at the same time. So, I thought we would try at least both and then if Cumberland did award us, um, an additional \$75,000, because our first grant was for \$127,000, so I'm really believing for a favor to at least get another \$75,000. So, it don't hurt to try is how I look at it. Do you want me to read the second one?

Mayor Crawford: Please.

Ms. Allen: The whole thing?

Mr. Hurst: Just read the first paragraph.

Ms. Allen: It's the exact same thing.

Mayor Crawford: If the council is okay with it, I am okay.

Mr. Wood: I will make the motion for this one, too.

Ms. Allen: For the Thompson Foundation.

Mr. Ratliff: I will second that one, too.

Mayor Crawford: Motion and second. Any further discussion? Roll call: Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Wood-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes. Motion carries. Thank you, Connie.

Ms. Allen: I've got a couple more things. And if these grants don't come through, we'll find another grant. I'm determined to get it fixed. Okay, the CARES ACT. I kind of wanted to give you an update on that. Uh, the town of Richlands received three checks for all the small businesses from the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors, which is a part of the \$3.5 million federal funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia. \$23,000 was for restaurants, \$13,000 for non-specific businesses, \$16,000 for retail, which is a total of \$52,000. All of the applications were due back today. As of this afternoon, I only had thirty applications out of 250 to be returned. We may get a few more in the mail in the morning, and we would consider those. Uh, but we should start reviewing those this week and have the money out by the end of the month for all the businesses that's awarded. And, also we had talked about the IDA reviewing, since we are only going to probably have about thirty plus applications, I think we can review that. It's only \$52,000, and then we can have a committee here at the town to allocate that money. But, we'll see tomorrow, but like I said, that's all that applied out of 250 businesses.

Mr. Taylor: And that would be divided equally among all the businesses.

Ms. Allen: Yes. Once we see tomorrow exactly, you know, because I think it was only two restaurants as of today that applied, and that was \$23,000. So, what we can do, we can go back to the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors, and we can ask them to reallocate that money so we can use it in retail. So, we can transfer that money over because we have more people in retail that applied for the money than we did restaurants. So, we don't want to give the money back. We want to help our businesses. And, um, also, once we look at the applications, if there's some that needs it a little bit more, you know. We know pretty much the history of the businesses in town. If we have to give one a little bit more, but we try to just kind of like equal it out since we only have a few applicants for it. Anybody have any questions or any other suggestions on that?

Mrs. Strong: So, Connie, the deadline is tomorrow?

Ms. Allen: Today.

Mrs. Strong: Today.

Ms. Allen: But, I figured we'd get some in the mail in the morning that was actually mailed, or I mean, if somebody was to come and say I filled out the application in the morning, I would take it. But, the deadline was today. And, one other quick thing. Uh, I don't know why my voice is going out. Sorry. The town also received two other checks for \$13,000 for PPE items that had already been purchased, and \$19,500 for PPE items that we could buy for future purposes. So, that's \$32,500. Okay, we also put a request into the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors for \$89,599.18, which we've already received \$32,500. So, we know they had to vote on the additional money that we would use by the end of the year. But, as far as I understand, we did get approved for, was it, \$68,000?

Mr. Taylor: \$68,000.

Ms. Allen: \$68,000. Yes, for \$68,000 more, which we have a list of like every department, of things that they will need between now and the end of the year. So, we will be careful with that. Any questions?

Inaudible (57:42-57:45)

Ms. Allen: That's it.

Mr. Wood: Thank you, Connie. You do a good job.

Mayor Crawford: Council member reports: Rod.

Mr. Cury: Okay, thank you. First off, I have had an inquiry about the bridge in Lake Park; it's the bridge that goes back toward the lake. Uh, you know, Virginia Hart asked me to check on that during council. I think these signs that the bridge was damaged at some point in time, and, uh, its special block wall is really nice and functional. And, apparently, the roadway is crumbling at the edges, and she along with other residents in that area are very concerned about it. And, uh, I think it happened some time back. Tim, I think you know these issues. Would you care to comment on that and to update the people?

Mr. Taylor: I can, and I am sure other council members also has talked to you about that. We were monitoring it; we were just trying to finish up our project on Grayson before we go to that. We've looked at it; it's not dangerous. It's more aesthetic than anything, but we do have it on our list to get to next. It would be best to be a little more patient. We will monitor it, and if the road were to get more dangerous, we would go out and fix it right now. I would like to finish Grayson, so we don't have to mobilize (inaudible 58:57-58:59). That's the reason it hasn't been done.

Mr. Cury: I appreciate that.

Mr. Ratliff: I've had several calls on that, too, Rod.

Mr. Cury: So, after the Grayson Street project is finished, you will begin to work on that?

Mr. Taylor: There was some sidewalk work on Grayson Avenue that was directed last year for us to get done, and as soon as that is finished, we will move down there. And we've got to move on to 460 road, Business 460 in front of the school (inaudible 59:23-59:25) That's kind of where business is unless something else happens.

Mr. Cury: Okay, thank you, Tim. Okay, and uh, then the planning commission met, and we met on the 4th. Let me make sure I told you correctly. Uh, we met on the 4th of August, and we also held a public hearing on that date. Uh, normally we have public hearings in conjunction with council. But, because of Covid 19, we can't take the risk of any civilian people in the room for a public hearing. So, the public hearing that we held was for the consideration of land to be rezoned in the Brickyard on Chestnut Street, and Mr. Jerry Dunford who had requested the commission that this be rezoned. And at anytime we are considering rezoning, we have to have a public hearing. So, we have, as a result of the public hearing, no one came to speak against it. He is requesting that his particular property on Chestnut Street be rezoned from an M1, which is an industrial to an R-2, which is general residential. And I will read the recommendation here momentarily. I want to mention to you, uh, although it is not in a formal recommendation of, uh, the commission's council, we hope that in the future, on that particular block, uh, anyone else who approaches, uh, the commission or the council for rezoning, uh, that they will be given the same consideration because although the intent of people thirty to forty years ago, whatever it was, was to have that area slowly transition into industrial. It hasn't happened, and, so, a review of that area by members of the commission, as well as Mr. Dunford reveals that. But, that's the future. You don't know. We're just hoping that everyone will be given an equal opportunity there. So, our recommendation for Mr. Dunford is, and I'll read it to you. Mr. Cury read

the recommendation at this time. (Attached.)

And, we have a signed copy of this from the chairman of the planning commission. So, that is the recommendation to the council. It was a unanimous vote. Uh, and it would really require a public hearing by the council. And, normally, we have joint public hearings because the cost of this public hearing is borne with the person making the request. So, Mr. Dunford has to adhere to the cost of the public hearing that we held and the advertising costs, and he will have to appear because also because of the one for the council for the town of Richlands. So, that being said, I'll put this in motion form for the council to consider this recommendation from the planning commission for Mr. Dunford. I make that motion.

Mrs. Strong: I'll second the motion.

Mayor Crawford: We have a motion and a second. Any further discussion?

Mr. Ratliff: Is Chestnut Street behind Food Lion?

Mr. Cury: Yes, if you go by Food Lion it is going down Kents Ridge. Uh, it's on the right. Not far from where Larry Johnson lives.

Mrs. Strong: Near the Mantis Crane.

Mr. Ratliff and Mr. Wood looked at a map at this time.

Mr. Taylor: Behind the HVAC.

Mayor Crawford: Further questions or discussion? Roll call vote: Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Wood-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes. Motion carries.

Mr. Cury: Thank you very much. And, I will ask the Town Manager to schedule and advertise for a public hearing. And do you have suggestions for that?

Mr. Taylor: Yeah, for that particular thing, I will talk to Mr. McClanahan about it, and he'll prepare the notice, for the, uh, the public hearing, and it will be at the, uh, under the penmanship of the town clerk. And, uh, I suggest having it before the council meeting in September, would be what I would suggest to make it 7:15 or something like that.

Mr. McClanahan: 7:00.

Mr. Wood: So, Rod, I got a question about this. So, (inaudible: 1:05:23-1:05:25), that whole section over there,

Mr. Cury: Yes, uh, are you looking at the map that was provided to you, Rick? This one right here? It is. If you look here; let me get my glasses on because I haven't looked at this enough on this part. But, if you look here, on Chestnut Street. All this area, pretty much was designated as M1. But, if you go down, do you see where Prater Drive is on that map?

Mr. Wood: Yeah.

Mr. Cury: That part of M1 is where Mantis Crane is. But this other part really hasn't been developed into, uh, industrial.

Mr. Wood: There are more houses there.

Mr. Cury: There are more residential buildings, yes. And, uh, as a matter of fact, uh, well I won't go that far. But, anyway, that's the recommendation is to, for this part that is x-ed off is what Jerry Dunford wants to rezone to R2, and what is before you is actually going to be a different matter than what the commission has covered. Basically, it'll be asking for a variance, but that is not relevant to the recommendation I just made.

Mr. Wood: So, but you, y'all said that what this comes back again, up again that if somebody is wanting to change that.

Mr. Cury: Yea right, it was just the thought of the commission. A though that if other people in this particular lot right here, this area come forward with a particular request to make this, to change it from an M1 to an R2, that we would, that council would consider what has been done because we're trying really hard not to spot zone because it can cause real problems, legal problems for the town. Uh, so, we're trying to recommend that areas, if we rezone something, although this does have the appearance of spot zoning, if we look into the future, saying this area, slowly but surely can return to residential other than the end over here where Mantis is.

Mr. Wood: Okay, but most of that is already residential?

Mr. Cury: Yes, even though its zoned M1. But, the people there are what we call a nonconforming use. I've learned all this from Tim and Richard Vance, I'll be honest with you, which is very difficult, I don't know a lot, but they are called nonconforming uses. They are existing as residences in an area that is a M1, which is general industry.

Mr. Wood: So, we don't need to do anything with that.

Mr. Taylor: No, not tonight. But you'll have that information to deal with. In some of the discussion that Mr. Cury talked about was the fact that Mr. Cantrell years ago, Kermit Cantrell had part of that rezoned adjacent to it. So, it's really contingent; it kind of fits in with what has already happened two years ago. The real worry about that is what,

and I think we will talk to Mr. (inaudible 1:08:26) about it is downsizing, or once you go from an M1 to an R2, oftentimes you lose value in your property, so we want to make sure that you go through the proper. Everybody understands that. It doesn't always happen but sometimes that's a concern. But, uh, like I say, it hasn't happened in 40 or 50 years, so it's not, you know, it probably won't happen right now. And if it did, (inaudible 1:08:48-1:08:51).

Mr. Cury: May I add, we talked about it in length, and that's what the commission is for. I don't want to take up too much time, but you can lose value, but, on the other hand, but the people who are there in the residence has already lost value, so if you make it the R2, you improve the value. That's the crystal ball. Okay, so, but I appreciate your questions.

Okay, uh, next, we have another recommendation from the planning commission. This is for Mr. Glen Roberts, who's been, uh, waiting patiently. This matter was referred from the council to the planning commission for recommendation. So, we have a recommendation. We made this recommendation based on two things: the fact that he has waited so long and the fact that we have been giving a lot of conditional use permits. So, we are trying to stay in form with the council. All right, this is the recommendation. Mr. Cury read the recommendation at this time. (Attached) So, I will take, ask council to take this matter up with Mr. Roberts. I will put this in the form of a motion that the council accepts the planning commission's recommendation.

Mrs. Strong: I will second that motion.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, we have a motion and a second. Any further discussion? Roll call vote: Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Wood-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes. Motion carries.

Mr. Cury: Okay, and that covers what I have for this evening. Thank you.

Mayor Crawford: Thank you, Rod. And, whoever speaks to Mr. Roberts, please apologize for all the time this has taken and we've been slow on this.
Uh, Richard.

Mr. Brown: A couple of things. One of them is related to the, involving (inaudible 1:11:46-1:11:48) the Tabernacle easement. I went down and looked at that. You want to go ahead and talk about that, if you don't care?

Mr. McClanahan: Yes, I did review that, and I think we made it easier to revisit that; not to reconsider it but just to make sure we get the details, um, correct. The sketch that I was provided, and I would call it a sketch-I wouldn't call it a survey or plat. In fact, I am not even particularly sure that the easement is the best vehicle to get that there. Because you know, with an easement, once you make that grant it is there. But, I understand what they want to do, but from looking at that sketch, I don't have the amount of specificity required to be able to draft something to say whether he can do this. And, if you're looking at that sketch, it doesn't even appear, assuming that those property boundaries are accurate, that the majority of it is even on the land of the town that he would need an easement and additional permission for it. So, I would like to continue working with the Councilman Brown to try to make sure that we just address that appropriately in order to (Inaudible 1:12:56-1:13:00).

Mr. Taylor: Yeah, I am a little bit confused about, you know, the right ways through the middle of the property and so forth, and we did have some concerns, uh, in the community about this, they thought they were trying to make a flood wall, being a flood wall but that's not what's going on here. So, I just want to make sure it's clarity to it, but probably a more detailed sketch similar to a plat would be better because obviously, once this is built this will be here for a long, long time. It will encroach some water that threatens (Inaudible 1:13:28-1:13:44). But, that's, I think, that's where the clarity is justified.

Mr. McClanahan: Just because everybody is in agreement now when we spoke, it doesn't mean that thirty years from now, when we've all moved on, and this property has changed hands, you know, that can often lead to litigation, unfortunately, about boundary lines and things of that nature. So, we just need to make sure that we've got a good handle on just the fact of where that needs to be. I know it's added expense, and that is a far higher quality sketch than I'm normally used to looking at, but I don't know that a survey wouldn't be, you know, a good idea on that just to make sure we know exactly where that's at. Specifically, I don't have that sketch in front of me, but you know, typically on those surveys, you know, you can sketch out the dimensions of property boundary. But, unless that is tied to a GPS coordinate, you can move that line wherever you want. You know, so, nothing on that sketch appeared to be tied to any particular GPS coordinates. So, that could lead to some uncertainty down the road, so we just need a little bit more information before we go on.

Mr. Ratliff: So, what are you asking? That the church do a survey?

Mr. McClanahan: I mean, I hate to put that burden and expense on them, but I can't provide a legal instrument with a level of specificity that I'm comfortable with to say that we are going to know forever and ever where this is at unless we've got some actual survey.

Mayor Crawford: Are you thinking? You're not thinking about retracting our approval, are you?

Mr. McClanahan: No, no. I'm just seeking some clarification to make sure that I can draft a document that accurately reflects council's desires.

Mayor Crawford: I think they would probably be willing to do that.

Mr. Taylor: Add some clarity, too, just to be clear. Because I know that just an easement can, uh, and VDOT-specific right ways do require, pretty much details, pretty much heavy, too.

Mr. McClanahan: Yeah, and definitely some, some, at least to confer with VDOT, considering the proximity to sidewalks and (inaudible: 1:15-53) and it probably wouldn't be a terrible idea to get their blessing on that. I am certainly not asking council to reconsider their vote or anything of that nature. I'm just trying to make sure that I can effectively carry out their wish.

Mr. Taylor: (inaudible:1:16:04-1:16:08) Looking through to make it legally sufficient.

Mr. McClanahan: Yeah, I just don't think that is sufficient for that sketch provides the amount of specificity of that property, and the boundary lines and the contemplated path of the easement and we can't retract that. And once that grant has been made, uh, that's a professional easement that runs with the land and that is there forever.

Mr. Taylor: So, do you want me to get Mr. Horton and the gentleman I talked to, to talk to you about it?

Mr. Wood: The way I understand it the concrete they are going to fill is on their property. What they're asking is to set a post, and it will be on one foot, eight inches on town property. All of that structure is going to be new. And it stops before you get to the end of the building. They are going with the other stairs with a covered walkway.

Mr. Taylor: I guess that is why we do need to talk.

Mr. McClanahan: It was my understanding that they were going to build some sort of permanent structure on the property.

Discussion was held on this matter by various council members, which is inaudible on the tape. 1:17:15-1:17:24

Mr. Joe McCracken: Can I say something? Anytime you build a structure to deflect water off you, you're deflecting it on someone else. I can do the same thing on my property. I can fill my property at the back and deflect my water on three of four residents and two or three businesses.

Mr. Taylor: Okay, okay.

Mr. McCracken: Would that be right?

Mayor Crawford: Okay, thank you, Joe. So, that's what you are going to do.

Mr. Brown: That is a question that I had to go along with some of this stuff. It's the issue with the VDOT piece of that. Uh, I walked and saw the pin. Is it on the Rockbridge side?

My. Taylor: It's on the Rockbridge side. It tapers down to a pin that's located now on 4th Street. The way I understand it by looking at it. It's, uh, there's a pin also that designates the property, but the issue is they don't want to working people in the entire parking lot. So, it's only at that point that intersects the family center's door, basically, and areas to get down through that walkway. So, I think they are trying to get a covered walkway, as I understand it, from family center to school building. I thought it was concrete, but it might be on stilts.

Mr. Wood: That part is really there, but the rest down is concrete, it's just a walkway.

Mr. Taylor: But, it's still a sidewalk, right? Just concrete. But I'll find this out.

Mr. Wood: But, what it is, the church and the right of way. The church was built years ago and when they built the right of way, the road was kind of (inaudible 1:19:12)

Mr. McCracken: I noticed that from looking at the map. (inaudible 1:19:15-1:19:20)

Mr. Brown: All right. I have one other thing. I have been asked by numerous, numerous citizens for some explanations about some statements that were made in the last month's council meeting regarding, I guess it wasn't a complaint but an actual question that was developed from a citizen regarding Mr. Ratliff's residency. And I want you to know that anything I state is not personal to me but it has come from citizens that have asked me to find out. But on the 14th of July you made a statement according to the minutes stated after you're being questioned about your residency. "I have a well that I use. I cannot drink fluoride water. I only use the city as a backup in case the well goes off or something happens to it. I have a letter from the town where we put in a back-flow meter." I was provided a copy of the permit I wanted to make sure that the well did not back feed into the town. I was provided with a copy of the permit for your well that you spoke about, unless there is another well that the Department of Health doesn't know about. It only says that this is a geothermal well for your heat pump. I'm not saying it is or isn't but that is what the Department of Health has on file for your residency on Plantation Drive. Um, if that's the well you are talking about, I feel that you kind of misled the council and the public regarding the questions involving your residency and an issue regarding the water usage. Uh, I don't think, or I don't feel that it was intentional or a lie. I do feel that it was at least deceptive in nature. I also want to bring out the fact that...

Mr. Ratliff: Can I say something about that?

Mr. Brown: Please, will you just let me finish. Like I said, it's nothing personal, but I'm only doing what the citizens asked me to do. I also want to bring out the fact that on two separate complaints that election fraud was filed against you with the Commonwealth Attorney's office. One is based on your residency and this well issue, and the other one's based on the way you accepted your signatures on your petition at your place of business. I don't know anything about those complaints other than that they will, called the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, and they were referred to the Attorney General, which I assume it has been. With those statements and the Virginia Department of Health documents, as well as two complaints of election fraud that were filed, I feel that this council

and more importantly the public has been misled by you. The town charter, 3.4 subsection 8 of the town's charter states that the council is required to find short stellar council members for disorderly behavior. My personal opinion is that blatant misrepresentation of facts made by you, Councilman Ratliff is disorderly behavior. Therefore, I make a motion to punish or expel you from your seat.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion. Do we have a second?

Mr. Cury: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second. Is there any further discussion?

Mr. Ratliff: Um, the geothermal well has nothing to do with the well that I use for drinking water. There's a well. It's a well that is completely by itself for drinking water; it has nothing to do with the geothermal. And, what are you saying about the signatures? I don't understand.

Mr. Brown: There were two complaints filed; one based on the fact of your residency and there was another filed with the Commonwealth's Attorney's office that was forwarded to the Attorney General, in which you left your petitions at your place of business and then you went in front of a notary and signed an affidavit that you personally witnessed the signature of each person who signed their signature, who signed your petition. There was a complaint filed with the Commonwealth's Attorney office, that that may not have been true. But, you signed the affidavit at the Registrar's office (inaudible: 1:23:42-1:23:43). Like I said, both of those are complaints filed. I had nothing to do with the complaints being filed. I was asked by citizens to bring this out. And, as far as I'm concerned, this is over with tonight. I'm not going to bring it back up. Whatever the council votes, I think we need to get along and go forward with the business of the town, but we've got to get this stuff behind us tonight, okay?

Mr. Ratliff: Thank you. As far as the signatures I was in the office and I witnessed all of those signatures.

Mr. Brown: Okay, we have a motion and a second.

Mayor Crawford: We have a motion and a second. Any further discussion?

Mr. Hurst: Explain to me. I guess I'm new to this. Um, disorderly conduct, uh, as far as for council members? I guess I'm just confused about it. (Inaudible 1:24:35-1:24:36). I'm sort of taken aback.

Mr. Brown: To me it falls, and this is just my representation. Me reading into the charter that we are required by our charter to punish a council member or expel a council member from their seat regarding disorderly behavior and several citizens of the town feels like, based on the complaints filed with the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office as well as the issue of, uh, the misrepresentation or misleading, whatever it was regarding the well on his property, and the drinking water and the water usage. Uh, it fell back under the oath of disorderly behavior by a council member. But, that's all I've got to say about whatever happens tonight. It's over; it's done. We need to get along after this.

Mayor Crawford: Well, I would assume that if it's been taken to the Commonwealth Attorney or whomever that they will follow up on it.

Mr. Brown: All I know is that the complaints were filed with the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office and that office reported it to the Attorney General, which is the proper thing to do because a council member is involved.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Uh, I can, I do know from the charter that in order to carry out this, uh, this motion and second, we have to have five members to vote on it. Am I correct? I'm going to ask you.

Mr. McCracken: It is my understanding, yes.

Mr. Wood: I want to say something.

Mayor Crawford: Okay.

Mr. Wood: I do know that Doug does have a well because I unhooked the water from the town (inaudible 1:26:24) last time. So, I'm telling you that.

Mrs. Strong: Um, one question I would have is about Mr. Lester. (Inaudible 1:26:34-1:26:39). Is he certified to do that type of thing?

Mr. Taylor: I'll talk about that in a minute.

Mrs. Strong: The reason I asked that, because, I know, like Mr. Brown has, um, I have had citizens ask me that about the well.

Mr. Taylor: Knowing the delicacy of the fact that there are council members involved in this, I certainly looked at what my obligations are as Town Manager. We do have an ordinance about it. Uh, we have cross-connection control department, that (Inaudible 1:27:07-1:27:08) by the Department of Health that was adopted in 1977 and it was updated in 1992 or '94. It requires anyone who has a well inside of the town of Richlands has to notify the town if they have that. We have questionnaires that go out, along with our CCR reports, a Consumer Confidence Report, the obligations that folks are supposed to abide by in the town. They are kept on file (inaudible 1:27:36). We do have qualified people that have to administer the cross-connection control ordinance. And that's approved and mandated through the Code of Virginia in the state of Virginia's Administrative code. We would have that approved once Mr. Ratliff mentioned that he a well connected with our system. Without knowledge, we didn't have that in our files, so that triggers basically some action on my behalf, and I am in the process of getting that done. I have talked to Mr.

Ratliff about that. We've made an initial survey of the problem. We have identified, and, uh, he knows this. I have talked to him about it, that that particular device is improper. That's not the proper device for that. Mr. Lester was mistaken. Uh, he's not qualified to make that because it takes a certification from the state of Virginia. So, we have three people certified in town to do that, which I am not one of them. We did, uh, Mr. Ratliff did say he would disconnect the, uh, the well from the town system. He did do that. We have confirmation of that. Uh, we had our qualified people down to investigate that, but, unfortunately, I have to finish the report. And, I'm not done with that because basically, the action of what happened, by whatever reasons, uh, does have a non-compliance issue with their conservation plan. And that is audited by the Virginia Department of Health. We will be audited on that, so we have to report those issues. So, that's still ongoing. I don't have the report finished. I took a week's vacation since the town council met that last time, so I haven't finished. So, we have some things to do on that, but I will be finishing that probably in the next week or so.

Mr. Ratliff: Can I say something?

Mayor Crawford: Yes.

Mr. Ratliff: That well was drilled several, several years ago. When that well was drilled, I called the town, and I asked them to send someone up and make sure it was in compliance. Okay, the person that came up was Mr. Lester. He checked it out and told me exactly what I had to do to begin with, told me what to do to be in compliance. I did that. Nothing was mentioned about, uh, Mr. Taylor was talking about. He said get a backflow device. He told me exactly what to do, and at that time, I did exactly what the town told me to do. And he was a (inaudible 1:30:07). That's who they sent, but that was probably about nine to ten years ago.

Mr. Taylor: Okay. I'm sure all of that can be verified.

Mayor Crawford: I will add another thing though. I just feel like I ought to tell you. Uh, I did sign your petition, and you weren't present when I signed it.

Mr. Ratliff: I was in the office.

Mayor Crawford: Well, I didn't see you.

Mr. Ratliff: I was in the office when those were signed, and I'm sorry that I didn't come out, but I was there. And I'd like to know how many council members, uh, watch every signature of those that will sign for them. I'm sure if you, if you had your signatures down and somebody came in to sign it. I'm sure a lot were signed without you looking exactly at it. There's not one council member in here that can say that. That you, that every signature was signed (inaudible 1:31:07). I was on premises, and it was there.

Mayor Crawford: The council members may not be able to say that, but I can say a definite for this last election. I did take it upon myself, and not because I knew anything about any of this, but I just took it upon myself to get all the signatures. It wasn't very many.

Okay. Any further discussion? We have a motion and a second. Roll call vote: Mr. Hurst-I'm going to abstain from this vote; Mr. Wood-I vote no; Mr. Ratliff-uh, no.

Clerk: Do I put that you abstain?

Mr. Wood: He can't vote.

Mrs. Strong-As difficult as it is, I have to preface this, Doug, by saying that I have received several calls from so many people, so I have to do my duty at the request of the citizens, so I have to vote yes.

Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, we don't have the five member votes necessary for a, what's it called?

Mr. McCracken: Disciplinary

Mayor Crawford: To fuss at you. Motion failed.

Mr. Brown: That's all I have at this time.

Mayor Crawford: MaryAnn.

Mrs. Strong: Okay, I just want to reiterate how successful I thought the day was Saturday and Sunday at Coaltown Taps. And, I appreciate the local businesses who are trying very hard to revitalize our town, and the other businesses, Brandi Slate's Slate Stone (Inaudible 1:33:00-1:33:01) and others that benefited from that. And I know that Blake Ray has challenged businesses to do the same. So, I personally think that was a very successful weekend, and it was really nice on Sunday to see people come together to support a young man, our own very courageous one who is fighting a battle with cancer approximately \$8,000 was raised. Secondly, I just want to mention that the rec commission did meet on July 20. We had a quorum. We have a new president, Ronnie Cordle, since Mr. Hurst is not allowed to serve, uh, on the commission. We did have a forum. We had a great discussion, and we'll meet again on the 17, next Monday at 7:30 PM, upstairs at the Rec. Park. And we do have a handout, and you may want to go over that in your report, but everybody has a handout from the rec park. Mr. Phillips is here if there are any questions, but I think the report speaks for itself. Revenue-wise, we're doing much, much better than we have ever done in the past with a small number of employees. So, I'd like to compliment the staff at the rec park for the great job that they do. Are there any questions? Do you want to save that, Mayor, for your report?

Mayor Crawford: Well, Fred has already told me that he's not going to read it, so we can read it ourselves. Just to reiterate, it's tremendous—the adopt a child program and just the fact that Jessica, and, uh, I can't remember the other lady's name.

Mr. Phillips: Autumn Meade.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, that they thought up this program and brought it up. I was very proud to support it, and I'm really glad (inaudible 1:34:59-1:35:00).

Mrs. Strong: The last thing that I have is (1:35:02-1:35:06) that the IDA met today at 5:00 PM, and they will meet every Tuesday at 5:00 PM here in the council chambers—the same night that we meet. And, they elected a new chairman, and that's Barry Allen, and the vice-chair is Larry (1:35:25). They're going to meet whether they have something on the agenda or not to just brainstorm. I think that's a little positive. But that is all I have, so thank you.

Mayor Crawford: Doug

Mr. Ratliff: 1:35:39- Um, I have a resolution, which I will read to you, but I'll tell you what it's about first of all. Everybody knows what's happened all over the place in cities over the statues. And, uh, in Richmond, there's several statues that they want removed, and maybe moved to a museum, like Robert E. Lee and several of them. And, a lot of the towns around us have, um, passed this resolution. And, in fact, the Ratliff Foundation, the Ratliff Foundation wants to bring a lot of these statues to Rosedale. Uh, (inaudible 1:36:20-1:36:22) and turn it into a museum, but bring all these statues and put them in a museum for tourism, and, which would be a great tourism for the whole Tazewell County. Uh, and listen. I'd like to read the resolution. Mr. Ratliff read the resolution at this time. I'll make that, uh, motion for us to adopt this resolution.

Mrs. Strong: I'll second the motion.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second. Any discussion?

Mr. Hurst: Do we have a timeframe on when they might be able to complete that?

Mr. Ratliff: Uh, we don't. It'll be a few months before they are able to.

Mr. Wood: Jeff, they are going to every...this is going to go farther than, they're still going to like all the statues that were taken down. They are going to bring them there and set them back up.

Mr. Ratliff: I think it's like 200 of them.

Inaudible 1:40:23-1:40:24

Mayor Crawford: Anything further? Roll call vote: Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Wood-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-I need to abstain. I have, uh, I am very supportive of the Ratliff Foundation, but I need to abstain because that would be a conflict of interest. (Inaudible 1:40:48-1:40:58)

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Motion carries. Rick.

Mr. Wood: The only thing I have. Mr. Hurst, I've been working on the trash, but it's out of town people, so I may bring everything down to just one dumpster or something to try to help us out (inaudible 1:41:26-1:41:30). But, anyway, I'll work on that for you. (inaudible: 1:41:33-1:41:36) Potholes. I've had a few calls on potholes on Kents Ridge. Uh, can we do something about that?

Mr. Taylor: I will see when we are scheduled to do that.

Mr. Wood: That's it. That's all I have.

Inaudible 1:41:56-1:51:57

Mr. Taylor: No, I think we have some more, especially on the edges.

Mr. Wood: It's the edge broke off is what they're talking about.

Mr. Crawford: I know they've done a lot of potholes.

Mr. Wood: I mean, yeah, they've done good, but all (1:42:09-1:42:11)

Mayor Crawford: Jeff.

Mr. Hurst: I appreciate the help with the trash. (Inaudible 1:42:15-1:42:34). I would like to say a couple of things, and MaryAnn sort of get on them too about this community and the experiences of the last few weeks, um, with the Richlands High School graduation and the county prom, which is a pretty cool thing, I think for both the communities. And, it looks like everybody made it out of there safe. And, Saturday, I thought was a great day for the town. We had, the, uh, car show at Coaltown Taps down there all day, and Slate and Stone had their, uh, opening as well. And it was just, uh, wonderful. The District 11 softball tournament was here, and I think the town had the privilege of, we had a great, uh very great day. Uh, it was a very great day to be out. I know we had guests from out of town, and they said, "What are we going to do today?" And I was like, "We got a lot to do so decide." It was, uh, it was great, and uh, I'm excited about the school year's beginning. Monday, I know that's going to be a little bit of a, a lot of, a lot of nerves, a lot of, uh, I mean, just anticipation, uh, either way. And, uh, I just want to bless all the ones that are directly involved with that, with good vibes, good health, good safety, and uh, you all got me thinking,

too, and, uh, I didn't know if, uh, you know, something happened between now and, uh, what about protecting our employees in the town. If there's anything we would do or a directive that the Governor's given? (inaudible 1:44:15-1:44:16).

Mr. Taylor: I can speak to that if you would like.

Mr. Hurst: Sure.

Mr. Taylor: Toward safety, on the, um the second of July, we were given a directive from OSHA and OSHA Virginia Occupational Authority. It's a directive to employers (inaudible 1:44:34-1:44:37) and in the past the governmental entities were often times (inaudible 1:44:42-1:44:48). So, we at staff meetings, we have instituted a thermometer reading and so forth. We had to order some equipment, but it's in. There is a social distancing that has to be practiced as much as practical. On that, we have tried to separate duties. Uh, even inside our own little family where we sometimes feel secure. Obviously, we probably shouldn't. We still have to honor those. That's why we're, we've actually picked it up another notch. The main reason is to protect our people, to protect our employees, because if we lose some of our very, uh, important individuals necessary to run the town of certain applications, it doesn't take but two or three employees to really but us in a bad way, especially certified people that run water and sewer and things like that. Police department, and uh, emergency response. So, we picked it up a notch internally to do that. We've been real diligent about trying to do that, and they're very serious about it. Uh, with that comes (1:45:51-1:45:55) just mistakes are supposed to be healthy, but if they are ignored and not taken serious, and they find out about it, the fine is ten times, so it's possibly a criminal action, so we're talking about it.

Mr. Hurst: So, yea, like I said, that was my biggest concern, you know, of course, with the beginning of school starting, and if something happened (inaudible: 1:46:14-1:46:22)

Mrs. Strong: Mayor, can I add a comment? Jeff mentioned about the district softball tournament. And we will be hosting more tournaments, softball and baseball in the next weeks. So, if you are out in town when these tournaments are being held, all the local restaurants are full. (inaudible 1:46:44-1:46:46) It was a great compliment from Virginia baseball and softball. And they are having to go through a lot of measures, extraordinary measures to give them a safe place to be, so appreciate their efforts and the revenue it brings.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Uh, with all that's been said about all of the good things that are happening, I have to bring up the gazebo at Britt's Park.

Mr. Hurst: I meant to mention that. I'm sorry.

Mayor Crawford: I'm glad you didn't because you would have been stealing my thunder.

Mr. Ratliff: I saw it tonight, and it looks wonderful.

Mayor Crawford: The town, uh John Brown, the Richlands Wrestling Club, uh, did a lot of work on it, Rusty cut the brush and stuff out from under it and cleaned it up very nicely. And, Larry Johnson actually donated the stain and several, several volunteers came and they, uh, when Lynne and I went to church Sunday morning, and they were gathering around, and when we come back after church, it was finished. And, it looks tremendous. I mean, I compliment everybody that took part in that activity. That's the kind of thing that we like to see happening around town.

Mr. Ratliff: Can I add to that?

Mayor Crawford: Yes.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay, there were two people you left out. The initial idea was Carrie Hill Dye's, uh, idea, and Christy Robinson helped her. And they took up donations, and, of course, I think they were instrumental in getting Rusty to give his time without pay or anything and his crew cutting the bushes and putting mats down.

Mayor Crawford: Every time I start mentioning names, I ought to shoot myself because I leave somebody out. So, it was a tremendous group of people and a tremendous effort put forth to get that done, and I think they did a great job. The other thing I have is, uh, I have a letter here that I've been asked to sign, and it's a letter of support for Virginia telecommunications initiative, DATI 2020, and it's a CTPDC regional application, actually Cumberland, what is that called? Cumberland Plateau has asked me to sign a letter at the Dr. Holm that we support this, the broadband initiative in our area. So, if we get this approved, you know, there'll be some funds here to help with that.

Mr. Wood: Go ahead and sign it.

Mayor Crawford: I've already signed it. Uh, the other thing is we talk a lot about grants and the grants that are available. There are a lot of grants available. Connie's working through the grants and learning how to do them. We actually have a young lady in town, who is, I think, one step away from her federal certification as a grant writer. And, uh, she lives in town, and she's willing to come and work part-time or whatever we can work out with her to write grants for us, and, uh, I think it's, uh, I think it's past time for council to go forward and hire this grant writer. I've been talking about for a year and a half, not continuously, but off and on. I'm not taking anything away from Connie for sure, but Connie's job is community development. She's going to be working on these festivals once we conquer this virus, which I have confidence we will. But, I would like to entertain a motion that we direct Tim to get in contact with this young lady and discuss work with her: the possibility that she might be able to help the town.

Mr. Wood: I'll make that motion.

Mr. Brown: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second. Any discussion?

Mr. Cury: Paul, I think it is a great idea, but, is this, are we talking about a full-time job or something that requires advertisement?

Mayor Crawford: I don't know about requiring advertisements, but she'll work part-time. Uh, we did find out that she cannot work on anything other than town's. A grant writer can work, most grants have an administrative fee embedded in the grant that, that you can use to pay the grant writer. And the town can't do that, if I understand.

Mr. Taylor: inaudible (1:51:33-1:51:34)

Mayor Taylor: So, what I'd like to do is just direct Tim to meet with her and discuss possibilities of how we could, uh, have her work for us part-time or whatever. She's willing to help. That's, that's my point. We talked about grant writer's and grants an awful lot. I think we need to go forward and start trying to get even more of them than what we have. Any further discussion?

Mr. Taylor: So, discuss the possibilities and try to bring the cost back to council. Is that what we want from me?

Mayor Crawford: Well, I'll give you her name.

Mr. Taylor: Okay.

Mayor Crawford: I would like the motion to be that you can work it out with her to get going.

Mr. Taylor: Okay. You are going to appropriate money for that? Is that okay?

Mayor Crawford: It depends on what happens then.

Mr. Taylor: Okay.

Mrs. Strong: I guess that is the question I had. What type of, uh, is it hourly or? I guess that is just something Tim will have to discuss with her.

Mayor Crawford: That's what I want him to work out. Yeah.

Mr. Taylor: Special budgets is where that would be in the budget. Is that correct, Adrienne? Is that where we would?

Ms. Cordle: I don't know that we could post wages of the special budgets, but there would have to be a vote for appropriations.

Mr. Taylor: We can work out details. Is that what you are trying to get me to do?

Mayor Crawford: Okay.

Mr. Wood: Okay, and I'll adjust my motion ever how, I don't know.

Mayor Crawford: I think the motion is fine the way it is. Okay, roll call vote: Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Wood-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes. Motion carries. And it has been brought up to me by some council, uh, and I like the idea too, of changing our starting time to a little earlier. Does anyone want to talk about that?

Mrs. Strong: I've said that for years.

Mayor Crawford: Anyone want to make a motion?

Mr. Hurst: At least 6:00 would be great.

Mr. Crawford: Well, we are half past my bedtime right now. So, I would like to start it earlier if we can, but I have to have a motion and a second.

Mr. Hurst: I'll make a motion that we move it to 6:00 PM.

Mr. Wood: I'll second that.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second. Further discussion?

Mr. Brown: There's something in the ordinance or charter or something that would (inaudible 1:54:02-1:54:05)

Mr. Taylor: I think it says you can set your start time because it has been changed before. It used to be 7:00.

(Inaudible conversations 1:54:14-1:54:15)

Mrs. Strong: I am all in favor of changing it, but I thought somewhere along the line, I heard that the organizers (inaudible 1:54:24-1:54:26)

Mr. Taylor: We just have to convene as an organization. You can change it at any time.

Mayor Crawford: I find in a lot of occasions it's easier to get together without permission. (Laughter) So, have I got a motion and a second?

Multiple council members: Yes, sir.

Mayor Crawford: Roll call vote: Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Wood-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes. Thank you all very much. Starting next month. Okay. And that's all I have.

Mr. McClanahan: I believe we have already addressed that issue during Councilman Brown's time.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Tim?

1:55:14

Mr. Taylor: Thank you. If you will please take open and look at the check register's report for the checks that were paid from July 15 to August 10 is the first set. Uh, the first of the month, what we call first of the month bills that need to be paid quickly. Are there any questions on any of those? Most are self-explanatory in your report. On the second set, that would be tonight's bills, where the majority of the larger ones are. There's a couple I'll bring to your attention. Uh, 8447, Clatterbuck Pavement Markings, Inc., obviously that is pavement markings (inaudible 1:56:08-1:56:10) for \$38,974.83. Uh, check number 8463, Electronic Systems. That is a software support that we pay annually: internet that goes into the IT budget. It's distributed amongst our departments. Uh, Thompson & Litton, Inc., is one I will go over in just a moment. This is a check for (1:56:40) upgrades final design and also some (1:56:45) for \$75,171.11. Uh, and it's part of a drop down (1:56:52-1:56:53) in just a moment. Those are some of the larger ones.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, do I have a motion?

Mr. Cury: I have a question. Check 8492.

Mr. Taylor: Uh, Ratliff Law Firm. That's for the court appointed cost, court appointed representation.

Mr. Cury: Okay.

Mr. Wood: I'll make the motion to pay these.

Mayor Crawford: Do I have a second?

Mrs. Strong: I'll second the motion.

Mayor Crawford: Motion and second. Roll call vote: Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Wood-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes. Motion carries.

Mr. Taylor: Thank you. The item that we added to the manager's report is not listed anywhere in the initial agenda, but it is the authorizing line of credit drawdown for the National Bank for the wastewater transplanted rehabilitation project costs during the current monthly billing for a total of \$75,171.11. This will be, for the record, draw down number four, draw down number four. So, we need the vote of the council specifically for that on the record.

Mr. Brown: I'll make that motion.

Mr. Cury: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: We have a motion and a second.

Clerk: I need to know who the second was, please?

Mr. Cury: Me.

Clerk: Thank you.

Mayor Crawford: Any discussion? Roll call vote: Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Wood-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes. Motion carries.

Mr. Taylor: Thank you. Item c, uh, that's just a report based on the support of (Inaudible 1:58:59-1:59:00) cost, which is pretty standard. That's just information. If you have some questions on that, if you'll let me know. Item d, or the next item on my report: the consideration of adoption of the resolution that was included in your package. 2020-08-01, that is a resolution necessary to support Virginia Smart Scale Project application for the realignment of 2nd Street approach. Basically, that was a project that was identified, as we talked about before, the stars in the 460-corridor improvement project. That basically takes care of the, uh, the circular movement from 2nd Street to Front Street around the Huddle House. It's been identified as part of that stars report to be a very hazardous situation. We've had accidents in that area over the years, but most people that are used to it are kind of acclimated to that. But, it doesn't meet VDOT design specs by no means to be quite frank with you. But, the project filming that we're applying for would, uh, do a project that would basically allow 2nd Street to come up to a T at that intersection with Front Street and provide the necessary sight distances both from the eastbound traffic coming out of Business Route 460. Uh, in order to get that into the proper possibilities, there has to be a resolution of support by council in the package. The packets are due to be submitted by next Monday, so I'm trying to get things submitted by the 14. So, uh, I won't read that, unless you really want me to because you have that in your packet. But, that basically gives you a summary of what we need to happen for that. Unless counsel thinks I should read it.

Mr. McClanahan: As bad as I hate to say it, I think we have to.

Mr. Taylor: Alright. I will do it.

Mr. Brown: I have a question on this. This project description is the same on the other resolution.

Mr. Taylor: Oh. Oh, excuse me, it's not. It's the second paragraph up.

Mr. Brown: What does Clinch Valley Medical Center have anything to do with the 2nd Street Approach Project? That's what I was getting at.

Mr. Taylor: Oh. That is wrong. We must have that copied wrong. We should, uh, we may have to print that one. Uh, can I get you to look at that, Adrienne, while we are in closed session? And correct that for us, okay? I will defer that one until we come out of the closed session. The other one is a, what would support also a project. These are two projects separately. It will be US 460 intersection. Thank you for bringing that to my attention. I will read that one.

Mr. Cury: Which one are we looking at, Tim? 02?

Mr. Taylor: This one would be 02. I'll read that one. Mr. Taylor read the resolution. Attached.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Do I have a motion to approve this resolution?

Mr. Wood: I'll make that motion.

Mrs. Strong: I'll second the motion.

Mayor Crawford: A motion and a second. Any further discussion? Roll call vote: Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Wood-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes. Motion carries.

Mr. Taylor: Uh, the second, the first resolution. Is this the same one? Correct me, Adrienne, you already have this corrected?

Ms. Cordle: That's the correct one. I don't know if there was a mistake on the photocopies. If you read it, that's the correct one.

Mr. Taylor: Okay, we'll make copies for everyone.

Ms. Cordle: That's the good copy.

Mr. Taylor: Okay. I'll read it. This will be considered the realignment project. This would be 01. I'm not sure how that happened. It must have just gotten in the wrong package. Mr. Taylor read the resolution at this time. Attached.

Mr. Cury: Of that motion, we don't actually have that copy?

Mr. Taylor: Yes, but you'll get it.

Mr. Wood: I'll make the motion.

Mr. Ratliff: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: We have a motion and a second. Any further discussion? Roll call vote: Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Wood-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes. Motion carries.

Mr. Taylor: Under miscellaneous. I talked to, uh, Mrs. Virginia Sayers with the Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens. Also, she's, I think, the executive director of the chamber, and they have, uh, they're looking for, trying to do a community investment partnership as part of the chamber. And, we're looking for funding applications to help small businesses. The application of some of these challenges that they are working with, but she had requested that we would consider as council to help fund the, the, the, uh, along with others, this particular partnership program that they're instituting for the entire county. Tazewell County ID had funded \$5,000 and agreed to put the roofing on (Inaudible 2:08:01-2:08:04) \$25,000. Uh, the Town of Cedar Bluff pledged \$3,500. The Thompson Foundation had funded \$5,000, and they're matching up to get another \$5,000 to sell gift certificates that can only be spent at local businesses. And, that would be part of the program that they're using to try to benefit small businesses throughout the county. She'd asked for this, uh, back during June, and, of course, we were still in the budgetary process. I had mentioned to her that there might be (Inaudible 2:08:37-2:08:39) but there might be some monies that the town council might consider that were left over from the flood relief fund that was donated by many people within the area, and actually outside the area that I think would still be marked available. I don't know if there's enough money to match the \$5,000 from some of the other folks and some of the towns, but, uh, that would be something I told her I would bring up to council. Can you think about it or participate or take it into consideration if that would be something we could ask. I did not have time enough to see, unless one of my staff members knows how much money might be still in that fund. Adrienne, do you or Connie know?

Ms. Cordle: I don't think that many people have taken advantage of that fund. I don't know that they really know that it's available.

Mr. Taylor: It's a shame, kind of, to have money sitting around.

Ms. Allen: I do know that some people called me a couple of weeks ago and last week, and they were going to apply for some of that money because (Inaudible 2:09:44-2:09:46)

Mr. Taylor: Okay.

Ms. Allen: So, they may submit some more applications.

Mr. Taylor: So, you have received some current requests from that? Well, you might want to reconsider that so if they're still drawing down that money, I probably wouldn't want to.

Ms. Allen: I will check, or one of us will check about how much money is left. But, I know there still is people asking for it.

Mr. Taylor: If you want to just take it into consideration and let me bring back more statistics to the next month, I can. Unless you want to act tonight, but it is up to you. I told Ms. Sayers that I would bring it up, and she'll be glad to come and talk to you about the program next month.

Mr. Cury: I think that is a good suggestion, Tim, and I think, if Virginia would like to come, that she should come.

Mr. Taylor: Okay, we'll ask her to come to the next council meeting. And, they may be in progress and tell you how long it's been (Inaudible 2:10:29-2:10:32) because we are getting other monies from other sources. Uh, just want to mention one thing that I talked to Wayne about this. Uh, it's imperative that we get everything we can identified in our comprehensive plan. It's very important to do that, uh, in regards to anything that has to do with VDOT. If we have a project that we're trying to identify, if it's not specifically identified in our comprehensive plan then it's overlooked. It just doesn't qualify. So, we have a study that was done a couple of years ago that incorporates not only these two projects that we just talked about but a number of projects along the statewide corridor improvement program qualifications, which includes (Inaudible 2:11:26-2:11:28) further up 460 and the major arterials. Uh, it would be probably prudent for us to consider adopting or at least maybe jointly adopting that as quickly as possible. I think we have an extension until October to get those in even though those funding packages are due the 17. They will take supporting resolutions and these type of, uh, legal activities until October. Mainly because we haven't been able to meet for a while due to the emergencies of this Corona virus. Though, uh, it's not just for now, but these projects going forward that are identified in this pretty expensive and intensive plan that VDOT did for us would identify some other things. I realize that is kind of an anomaly we haven't talked about, but what I will do, if you'll consider having a public hearing on this, along with, I don't know. Joint public hearings are difficult, but we just don't have time to do two, I think, on this one. So, if we could do a joint public hearing with the planning commission for September, say it's 7:00, and then have it followed up with the other one at 7:15. Oh, excuse me, we changed the time. So, you'll have to change times now. So, you can identify the times, but if you'll agree, the planning commission has agreed to do a joint public hearing to review this amendment to the plan, to the comprehensive plan, to include this stars program, which is a pretty easy thing. But, I will distribute the stars program to you. It is on a weblink that I'll distribute to you, uh, between now and the next council meeting so you can study it. If that's okay, I would like for you all to try to give me some direction to get that on the line.

Mayor Crawford: I say to set it up at 5:30 and 5:45.

Mr. Taylor: If that is what you wish, we will do that. The public hearing for one at 5:00, and the other one at 5:45, followed by council meeting at 6:00. Uh, that is all I have.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, is that all the stuff?

Mr. McClanahan: I reckon. If you would entertain a motion to move into executive session to discuss section 2.2-3711 A(8) to discuss public nuisance procedure, section 2.2.3711 A(8) to discuss statutory compliance with VA. Code 56-484.16, section 2.2-3711 A(8) to discuss the CVM Pass-through assessment procedure, section 2.2.3711 A(7) for an update regarding active debt collection litigation status, and 2.2-3711 A(1) to discuss personnel matters.

Mayor Crawford: I will entertain a motion to move into executive session.

Mr. Cury: I'll make that motion.

Mr. Wood: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second. Roll call vote: Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Wood-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes. Okay, once again, I'll ask everybody to wear your masks when we go in closed session.

Entered into closed session: 2:14:46

Left closed session at 3:09:55.

Mayor Crawford: Turn your mics on, please? At this time I'll entertain a motion that the members of council reconvene in the open session and accept the certificate of executive session certifying that the matters discussed while in executive session were those both lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements and identified in the motion by which the closes session was convened.

Mr. Wood: I'll make that motion.

Mr. Hurst: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second. Roll call vote: Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Wood-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes. Motion carries.

Mr. McClanahan: Uh, Councilman Brown, if you could say on the record that you did abstain from a portion of that? You don't have to read the whole thing.

Mr. Brown: I abstained from the portion of it involving the Statutory Compliance with Va. Code 56-484.16. Yes, I abstained. It is 10:30.

Mr. Hurst: The next night it'll only be 9:00.

Mayor Crawford: Did you say you had something?

Mr. Taylor: Just one thing, I forgot under the session, uh, the delinquency issues that we had? I think we still have like forty four thousand and some odd dollars worth of delinquent accounts. Which we are not cutting anyone off. Uh, we're trying to make arrangements for the ones that can't pay and steer them in the right direction for help. But, I just want to know what council wants to do about that. Do you want to initiate cut offs, or do you want to continue to delay cut offs until a later date? If you do, I would like you to be time specific on it.

Mr. Ratliff: I think a later date until we get over this.

Mr. Taylor: Try a month at a time just so we have the flexibility, would be probably what I'd recommend. What I would like to have before the next council meeting, maybe fourteenth, no the eighth.

Mr. Wood: How much money is owed to us?

Mr. Taylor: Over \$44,000 in utility bills.

Mr. Wood: Is it a whole bunch of different people, or is it a few people who owe a lot?

Mr. Taylor: It's several people. I'll tell you in just a second.

Mr. Wood: Because if it's just a few people, then it's a different situation.

Mr. Taylor: Well, I guess it's... Do you know off the top of your head, Adrienne?

Mr. Wood: Is it less than ten percent of our customers?

Mr. Taylor: I would think, yes.

Ms. Cordle: Oh, yeah. It's just the front and back of two pages. And, we've got what? Twenty four hundred customers?

Mr. Taylor: Yeah. So, it's about a hundred?

Ms. Cordle: Um, probably not that many, but maybe.

Mr. Taylor: Let me tell you the problem with this. We try to convince them to try to pay something or make arrangements to do that because it's hard to. If you just don't tell us anything, then, uh, make an effort, then according to what y'all adopted initially, then it becomes difficult to pay penalties and interest (Inaudible 3:13:32-3:13:34). Uh, but some of those bills, I think a lot of folks think they're just not going to pay them. And, it's just digging a hole deeper and deeper for them. Uh, uh, I don't have a solution for that. I think probably within the next thirty days, because we're heading toward winter, and some of these are really going down, and if they don't start doing something. If they don't know that they owe it, then they won't be aggressive in trying to find help either from other sources. So, maybe we need to try to do something instead of just not doing anything.

Mr. Wood: I think we need to, by the next council meeting, we just go ahead and go back to they are going to have to pay.

Mr. Taylor: So, we are going to start calling people saying...

Mr. Wood: They are going to have to because if we just keep letting it go and go then they aren't going to.

Mrs. Strong: So, if they set up a payment.

Mr. Taylor: I'm sorry.

Mrs. Strong: Because if they don't, they are going to get so deep.

Mr. Wood: They will have to move out of town, and that ain't what we want. So, they need to make arrangements by the next council meeting.

Mr. Taylor: So, it looks like council is at least going to allow one more thirty-day extension? But after that they are probably going to start looking at a different solution, is that fair to say?

Mr. Wood: I don't want to cut people off if they're, if they make payment arrangements, to cut them.

Mr. Taylor: Is that enough direction for us, Adrienne, to be able to do that Monday?

Ms. Cordle: Yeah.

Mr. Taylor: If you'll vote on that, that would be fantastic.

Mr. Wood: I make that motion.

Mr. Ratliff: I second it.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second to inform the delinquent power bill or bill payments, that now by the next council session, which will begin, what?

Mr. Taylor: We will start the delinquency cut off.

Mr. Ratliff: A certain, uh, percentage. Um, that they have to make an effort.

Mr. Taylor: To make arrangements.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Roll call vote: Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Wood-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes. Motion carries.

Mr. Wood: I make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Clerk: I am sorry, Mr. Mayor. I need clarification, please, from Mr. Taylor. You spoke about the joint public hearing, and you stated two different times. You said 5:30 and 5:45, and then you said 5:00 and 5:45.

Mr. Taylor: Um the public hearing, one of them will be at 5:30; there's two of them. One is a joint public hearing and one is a regular public hearing. The zoning will be just council, just one hearing. The planning commission will participate in the one that has the stars study in it, the comprehensive plan.

Clerk: Then, is that 5:00?

Mr. Taylor: That'll be at 5:45 and council will start at 6:00.

Mayor Crawford: One at 5:30, and one at 5:45.

Mr. Cury: I think what she is asking, did you get it? The council's planning, uh, the hearing that is only council will be at 5:30, and the joint public hearing with the planning commission will be at 5:45.

Mr. Taylor: Because that'll have more people.

Clerk: Thank you.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second to adjourn.

Ms. Cordle: Real quick before you close, Mayor. I've got that number you want. It's 121 residential accounts.

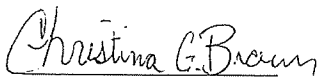
Mr. Wood: Okay, how many customers?

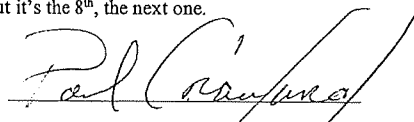
Ms. Cordle: 121 residential customers, and the delinquent is \$44,600, and there's seventeen commercial accounts that are delinquent for \$8,400.

Mr. Wood: I think that gives them a perfect time to start paying something on a payment plan.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, a motion and second's been made. Roll call vote: Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Wood-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes.

Mr. Taylor: And your paper said the 15th, but it's the 8th, the next one.


Christina Gail Brown, Town Clerk


Paul Crawford, Mayor